

Highlights for Urban Population

Average yearly expenditures on food by U.S. urban households increased between 2003 and 2004. Over the period, annual per capita spending on food by these households rose from \$2,035 to \$2,207. The 2004 average comprises \$1,347 spent on food consumed at home and \$860 spent on food consumed away from home. Therefore, the total increase of \$172 from 2003 to 2004 resulted in a 7.9-percent increase in food-at-home expenditures and a 9.3-percent increase in food-away-from-home expenditures. In the same period, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all food rose by 3.5 percent.

Other highlights for the U.S. urban population include the following:

Household size—In 2004, one-person households spent more than twice as much per person on food as households of six or more persons, \$2,958 versus \$1,335. One-person households also spent a much larger share of their food budget on food consumed away from home than households with six or more people, 44 percent versus 30 percent.

Income—Average per person food spending increased with household income. In 2004, households in the lowest 20 percent of the income distribution spent \$1,737 per person on food, compared with \$2,812 per person for the wealthiest 20 percent. Wealthier households tended to spend more than other households for both food at home and food away from home, and they spent a larger share of their food budget than other households on food consumed away from home. The share of the food budget spent on food consumed away from home varied from 30 percent for the poorest group to 44 percent for the wealthiest.

Race—In 2004, Black households spent about 31 percent less per person on food than White households. Average yearly food spending in White households was \$2,300 per person in 2004, compared with \$1,587 per person for Black households and \$2,305 per person for households of other races. Over the same period, White households spent a larger share of their food budget on food consumed away from home than Blacks, 39 percent versus 34 percent.

Age—Per person food spending in 2004 increased with the age of the household head up to age 64 and then declined. Households headed by persons age 55-64 also spent the most per person on food consumed away from home. Households headed by persons under age 25 spent more per person on food consumed away from home than households headed by persons age 25-44.

Region—Among all U.S. regions, households in the Northeast spent the most on total food per person, while those in the South spent the least. In 2004, households in the Northeast spent a total of \$2,464 per person on food, of which \$964 was for food consumed away from home. In contrast, households in the South spent a total of \$2,082 per person on food, of which \$803 was for food consumed away from home.